



*Nadine and Ali are residents of Plymouth Housing Group's 91-unit Gatewood Apartments, which offers on-site staffing to help tenants make the transition from homelessness to stability. Photo courtesy of Plymouth Housing Group*

### Putting the Ten-Year Plan into Action

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County coordinates implementation of the Ten-Year Plan. King County, the City of Seattle and United Way of King County are the major funders of the committee's work, with other organizations contributing financial and in-kind support. Working through the committee, organizations across King County are ending homelessness by aligning and coordinating funding and efforts to carry out the Ten-Year Plan. This means using existing resources and programs more efficiently, showing results, and generating new resources.

**With broad community support, we are making unprecedented progress toward ending homelessness, and we anticipate that the momentum will continue. Highlights of the plan:**

- Build or acquire 9,500 units of housing specifically for formerly homeless households, integrated with supportive services
- Streamline and coordinate services providing health care, mental health services and job training, and link clients with the services appropriate for them
- Strengthen discharge planning so that people leaving jails, prisons, hospitals or substance abuse and mental health treatment facilities are housed and treated, not released onto the streets
- Develop and implement strategies to address the disproportionate impact of homelessness on people of color
- Realign existing funds and develop new fund sources to support effective programs
- Measure how we're doing and improve our strategies to make sure we are effective and successful

### A Regional Response to a Regional Problem

The organizations that initiated the Ten-Year Plan come from across the region, and include the Church Council of Greater Seattle, City of Seattle, Eastside Human Services Alliance, King County, North Urban Human Services Alliance, Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless, South King County Council of Human Services and United Way of King County.

Since implementation of the plan began, other municipalities, the Suburban Cities Association, faith communities, non-profits and members of the business community have endorsed the plan and are participating in its work.

### How to Help

Whether you are a homemaker or a CEO, a student or a senior citizen, there are ways that you can help end homelessness:

- Volunteer with a social service agency serving homeless people
- Contribute to United Way's campaign to end homelessness or to one of the many skilled and dedicated service and housing providers in our area



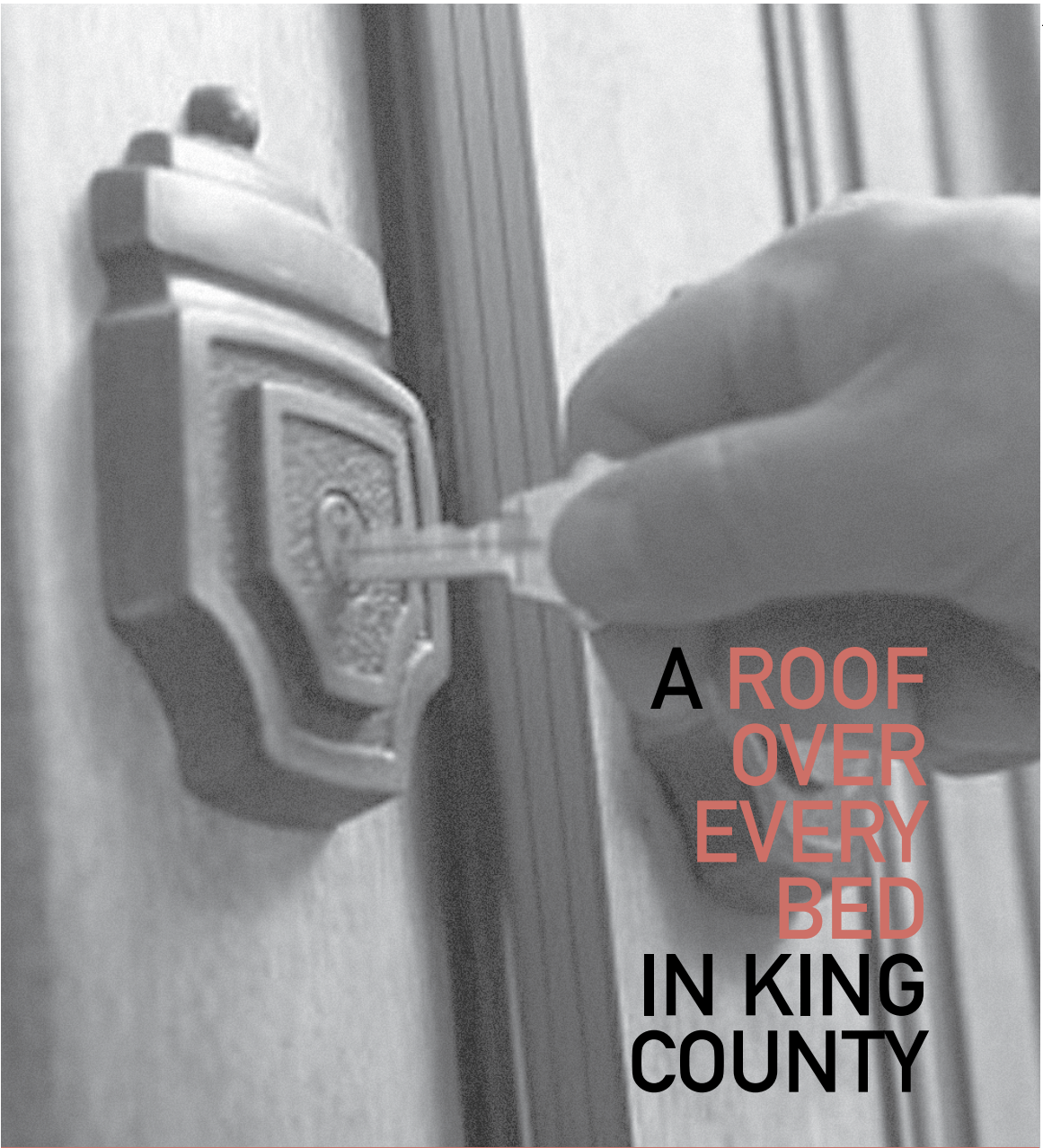
- Involve your faith community, community club or service organization in volunteering, providing housing or funding services
- Make your voice heard in Olympia by contacting your legislators
- Alert your friends, family and neighbors, and get them involved

*For details on how to help, visit the Committee to End Homelessness in King County web site, [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org); the United Way of King County web site, [www.uwkc.org](http://www.uwkc.org); and the Crisis Clinic web site, [www.crisisclinic.org](http://www.crisisclinic.org).*

### Information

For more information about the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, visit [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org) or call 206-296-5251.

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**OUR COMMUNITY'S  
TEN-YEAR PLAN TO  
END HOMELESSNESS**



COMMITTEE TO END  
HOMELESSNESS  
KING COUNTY





*“There are a lot of challenges in this plan to end homelessness, but I’m glad we have it now. If we combine our efforts on this, it really can work.” — A formerly homeless person in Seattle. Photo courtesy of Real Change newspaper*

On any given night in King County, nearly 6,000 people are staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing. About 3,000 of them are members of homeless families, and approximately 1,700 are children and youth. Our one-night street count — conducted in January in selected parts of the county — identifies roughly 2,000 individuals sleeping in the streets, in cars and in the woods. An unknown but undoubtedly significant number of homeless single adults are sleeping without shelter in uncounted areas. Meanwhile, an estimated half of all homeless single adults are chronically homeless, and many of those suffer from mental illness, a physical disability or an addiction that prevents them from working.

According to a 2006 poll by United Way of King County, residents see homelessness as one of the three most important issues facing the region, behind transportation and education. Of those polled, 23 percent say they or someone in their immediate family had been homeless at some point. Still, there is hope — 84 percent of King County’s residents believes that we can end homelessness.

So did a coalition of more than 30 housing and service agencies, faith organizations, businesses, governments and homeless groups when they first gathered to develop the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County and form the Committee to End Homelessness in King County.

## A New Plan, a New Approach

Homelessness touches all of us, whether we have struggled with it personally, know someone who is homeless, or observe homeless people on our streets. When people are without homes, they often have no choice but to seek emergency shelter and emergency medical care, and some of them even land in jail. All of these public facilities are costly to run.



*Formerly homeless men and women have a place of their own at The Morrison, a 190-unit apartment building with supportive services, operated by the Downtown Emergency Service Center. Photo by Gabriel Rozycki*

The Ten-Year Plan lays out concrete steps to confront the tough issues that cause homelessness. It provides a clear vision and action plan for change, not just a description of the problem or a prescription for short-term remedies. And, it makes economic sense because it moves people and funding away from expensive crisis services and toward long-term, comprehensive solutions.

Never before has there been such a concentrated focus on finding long-term housing solutions for everyone in King County. Never before have so many major funders, private and public organizations, service providers, advocacy groups and homeless people joined together to coordinate efforts to heal this profound social ill in our community.

The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness provides unity of purpose and opens the door to cooperation and alignment among the public, private and nonprofit sectors. And, it includes specific ways for these entities to contribute to ending this unacceptable social problem.



*Teacher Andria Lencioni touches the lives of her students every day at First Place, a school serving homeless children. Photo by Ben Van Houten*



*A mother and her children are safely housed and supported by the Eastside Domestic Violence Program. Photo courtesy of Eastside Domestic Violence Program*

## Three Keys to Success

*“I never thought I would be homeless, but when I got laid off from my job I couldn’t pay my rent and had to start staying with friends. I just want to get back to work.” — A homeless person*

Those who developed the Ten-Year Plan incorporated proven strategies from across the country. The three key strategies — customized to meet the unique needs of homeless single adults, youth and families — are:

### 1. Prevent homelessness

By helping people stay in long-term housing, they can confront the problems that can lead to homelessness. Providing services such as rent assistance, job training and case management to individuals before they become homeless does, in fact, help them stay in their homes.

### 2. Move people quickly to housing with supportive services

By moving homeless people into housing and then providing integrated, supportive services, they will have a much better chance of achieving long-term stability and self-sufficiency. This includes the “housing first” model that has proven extraordinarily effective across the nation.

### 3. Build the public and political will to end homelessness

By creating the vision of a community free of homelessness — and delivering on that vision — we will generate the community-wide creativity, resources and volunteers needed to resolve this problem.